



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/090,965

03/04/2002

Friedrich Srienc

110.01480101

6415

26813

7590

06/30/2006

MUETING, RAASCH & GEBHARDT, P.A.

P.O. BOX 581415

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55458

EXAMINER

PAK, YONG D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/090,965	SRIENC ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yong D. Pak	1652	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 12 May 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
- (a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
- (c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
- The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
- Claim(s) allowed: _____.
- Claim(s) objected to: _____.
- Claim(s) rejected: _____.
- Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see attached.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
13. ☐ Other: _____.

ADVISORY ACTION

Response to Arguments

The amendment filed on May 12, 2006 under 37 CFR 1.116 in reply to the final rejection has been considered and has been entered but is not deemed to place the application in condition for allowance because: the request for reconsideration does not overcome the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madison et al., Johnston et al., Clemente et al., and Linde et al. as discussed below.

Claims 1-13 are pending and are under consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-13 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madison et al., Johnston et al., Clemente et al., and Linde et al.

In response to the previous Office Action, applicants have traversed the above rejection.

Applicants argue that even though anaerobic cultures of yeasts are known in the prior art, the instant claims are not obvious because successful production of PHA under anaerobic conditions is surprising because PHA is typically considered an aerobic storage material in microorganism cells. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Since *S. cerevisiae* are able to grow during anaerobic conditions, Linde et al. teach that there is little difference of aerobic and anaerobic transcript profiles of *S. cerevisiae* and the

Art Unit: 1652

ability for *S. cerevisiae* to produce PHA under anaerobic condition is inherent to the yeast, in the absence of any evidence that production of PHA in *S. cerevisiae* under anaerobic conditions was difficult to achieve or that PHA are not produced in *S. cerevisiae* under anaerobic conditions, production of PHA in *S. cerevisiae* under anaerobic conditions would not be unexpected to one having ordinary skill in the art. Rather, with the teachings of Linde et al., one having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to culture yeasts under anaerobic or aerobic conditions determine if genes involved in PHA synthesis have different transcript profiles under aerobic or anaerobic conditions, thereby altering yield of PHA.

Applicants also argue that Linde et al. does not particularly suggest flexibility of expressing genes under anaerobic and aerobic conditions since a small number of genes exhibited a greater mRNA levels under aerobic conditions, such as PXA1 and FOX2. While it is true that PXA1 and FOX2 have a greater mRNA levels under aerobic conditions, it does not indicate that all genes involved in B-oxidation will have greater transcription levels under aerobic conditions. Linde et al. demonstrates some genes that prefer aerobic conditions and some genes that prefer anaerobic conditions, but concludes that "aerobic and anaerobic transcript profiles of *S. cerevisiae* exhibit little difference" (page 7412, 2nd column). Therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to express genes involved in PHA synthesis under anaerobic conditions.

Hence the rejection is maintained.

Art Unit: 1652

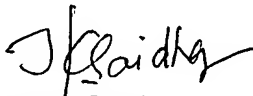
None of the claims are allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Pak whose telephone number is 571-272-0935. The examiner can normally be reached 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications and 703-872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.

Yong D. Pak
Patent Examiner 1652


Tekchand Saidha
Primary Patent Examiner 1652